



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Department
Office of Governor Deval L. Patrick
Press Release**

Contact: Heather Nichols, Rachael Neff, Juli Hanscom – 617-725-4025

Follow us on [Twitter](#) – View our [Photos](#) – Watch our [Videos](#)

GOVERNOR PATRICK APPOINTS EXPERIENCED PROSECUTOR JAMES ORENSTEIN AS HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

BOSTON – Monday, June 9, 2014 – Governor Deval Patrick today named experienced prosecutor James C. Orenstein as Hampden County District Attorney (DA). Orenstein, who currently works on special projects for the Hampden County DA's Office, will assume responsibility for all of the Office's operations and fills the vacancy created by the appointment of Hampden County DA Mark Mastroianni to the federal bench.

"I am very pleased to appoint James Orenstein as Hampden County District Attorney," said Governor Patrick. "With decades of experience in the office already, he knows the law, the people, the courts and the problems better than anyone, and will keep a strong team stable until the voters choose their next DA. I thank him for his willingness to continue to serve the Commonwealth and the people of Hampden County."

Orenstein has nearly 25 years of experience in the Hampden District Attorney's Office, where he currently works on special projects including pre-trial review of homicide cases, investigating cold case homicides and mentoring newer attorneys. Orenstein served as First Assistant DA under outgoing Hampden County DA Mastroianni until 2012, and served as First Assistant DA under former Hampden DA William Bennett. Previously, Orenstein served as Chief of the Public Protection Unit. Prior to his work as an assistant district attorney, Orenstein served as the Longmeadow town prosecutor, and spent several years in private practice handling civil and criminal cases. He began his legal career as a public defender in Springfield.

Orenstein graduated cum laude from University of Massachusetts Amherst, and received his J.D. from Western New England School of Law. Orenstein is a resident of Longmeadow.

"I am extremely pleased James Orenstein has been named as Hampden County District Attorney," said Judge Mark Mastroianni. "He has done a truly remarkable job as an assistant district attorney and the work he has done has made our community stronger and safer. I am confident he will serve as DA with that same passion."

"I am incredibly honored to have been appointed by Governor Patrick to this post in the office in which I have worked for more than twenty years," said Orenstein. "I hope to continue the kind of leadership provided by the two outstanding district attorneys under

whom I have served. I have the highest regard for the staff of the District Attorney's Office and am excited as I look forward to our continued affiliation."

Orenstein replaces Mark Mastroianni who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate last week for a federal judgeship. An election to select the next DA will occur in 2014, the next biennial election.

###